Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following heading before the paragraph beginning at line 3 on page 1 which reads:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a header tube for a heat exchanger, with one or more slots for the insertion of a respective flat tube, said slots being introduced by punching with no inner die or by internal high-pressure forming, and to a method for the production of a header tube of this type. An important field of use is heat exchangers in the form of evaporators and condensers or gas coolers of motor vehicle air-conditioning systems.

Please insert the following heading before the paragraph beginning at line 1 on page 3 which reads:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The invention solves this problem by the provision of a header tube comprising one or more slots (3a to 3d) for the insertion of a respective flat tube, the slots being introduced by punching with no inner die or by internal high pressure forming, characterized in that the ratio (D/2s) of the tube outer radius (D/2) to the tube-wall thickness (s) is lower than five. The invention also solved this problem by provision of a method for the production of a header tube with one or more slots for a heat exchanger, said slots being introduced by punching with no inner die or by internal high-pressure forming, characterized in that the slot or slots (3a to 3d) are introduced parallel to or at an acute angle to the tube longitudinal axis (2) or by a method characterized in that characterized in that a flat piece (5) is bent into a header tube blank open along a longitudinal gap (8) and the longitudinal gap is subsequently sealingly soldered or sealingly welded, and the slot or slots (3a to 3d) are introduced into the flat piece (5) or into the header tube blank (6) before or after the longitudinal gap (8) is sealingly soldered or sealingly welded.

Please insert the following heading before the paragraph beginning at line 21 on page 5 which reads:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Advantageous embodiments of the invention are illustrated in the drawings and are described below.

Please insert the following heading before the paragraph beginning at line 17 bridging pages 6 and 7 which reads:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The header tube 1 shown as a detail in Figures 1 and 2 is provided circumferentially, that is to say on its tube outer surface, with a row of slots 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f which succeed one another in the direction of the tube longitudinal axis 2 and have an elongate configuration matched to the cross-sectional shape of flat-tube ends to be inserted. Said slots run with their longitudinal extent parallel to the tube longitudinal axis or tube other surface line 2 and succeed one another at equal short intervals so as to form corresponding web regions 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e. It goes without saying that, if required, that is to say depending on the succession of flat-tube ends to be inserted of a heat exchanger flat-tube block configuration used in each case, and other succession of slots is possible, for example, a sequence of pairs of slots having a wider interval and each consisting of two closely adjacent slots.